

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in this application, Claims 1, 6, and 10-14 having been amended, and Claims 15-24 having been added by the present Preliminary Amendment. The amendments to Claims 1, 6, and 10-14 are self-evident, and go only to matters of form. Support for the new claims is self-evident from the originally filed specification and claims, and no new matter is added.

Accordingly, examination on the merits is in order, and an early and favorable Office Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

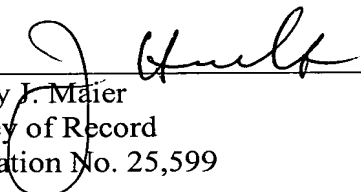
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Joseph Wrkich
Registration No. 53,796

James D. Hamilton
Registration No. 28,421